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National Intelligence Bulletin

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January 20, 1975

No 636

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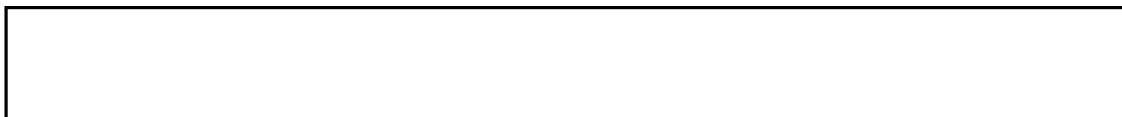
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Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP79T00975A027300010054-9

National Intelligence Bulletin

January 20, 1975

CONTENTS



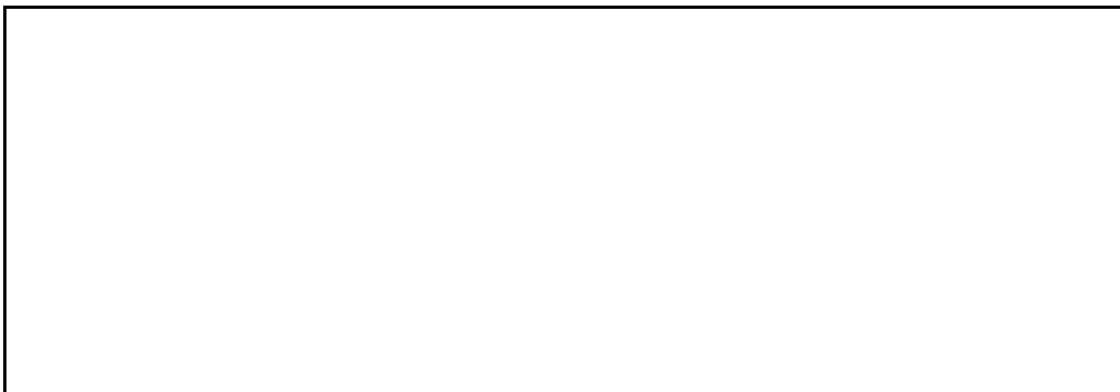
25X1

CYPRUS: US embassy bracing for possibility of another assault. (Page 5)



25X1

VIETNAM: The Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government has scored a significant breakthrough in its efforts to obtain full observer status at the UN. (Page 12)



25X1



25X1

Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP79T00975A027300010054-9

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP79T00975A027300010054-9

National Intelligence Bulletin

January 20, 1975

CYPRUS

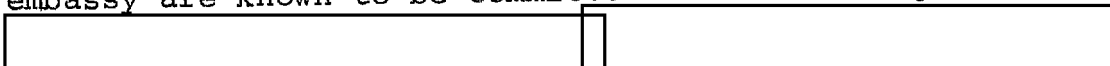
The US embassy in Nicosia is bracing for the possibility of another assault today. A demonstration is planned similar to the one on Saturday, when Greek Cypriot mobs ransacked and set fire to a wing of the US embassy as well as to the British consular office. Despite assurances from the Cyprus government that stronger security measures will be in force, embassy officials fear a determined mob could again break into the embassy.

The embassy believes that the demonstration by government workers, shopkeepers, students, and teachers could grow to 15,000 persons and turn violent. Leftist extremist members of Vassos Lyssarides' party reportedly have been in the streets whipping up emotions, and may well provide the spark and organization for today's activities.

The embassy reports that conversations with high government officials, along with assurances passed indirectly from the presidential palace on Saturday following the attack against the embassy, point to a firm decision by the government to make a serious effort to protect the embassy. This change in attitude is attributed to the strong demarche made by the US government to the Cyprus government.

The Greek Cypriot police and National Guard did little to protect the embassy during the attack Saturday. While there is no evidence that the Makarios government organized the demonstrations, it may have tacitly condoned them. The highly critical statements made by government officials against the British decision to evacuate the Turkish Cypriot refugees from the British base in the south of Cyprus doubtless contributed to the outbreak of violence, which took on anti-American and anti-British overtones.

Police officials now in charge of security at the embassy are known to be committed to maintaining order.



National Intelligence Bulletin

January 20, 1975

25X1

The embassy remains concerned, however, that some policemen and National Guardsmen, many of whom share the sentiments of the demonstrators, may not follow the orders of their superiors. The embassy therefore is not certain that protective measures will be effective; all nonessential personnel and dependents were moved to the nearby Hilton Hotel. While embassy officials yesterday were "reasonably confident" that evacuation would not be required, they did not rule out such a decision. Elements of the Sixth Fleet have already prepared for such a contingency.

The situation was generally calm yesterday. Only small demonstrations took place, and they were contained by police and National Guardsmen. The funeral in Limassol of the Greek Cypriot youth slain Friday in a clash between demonstrators and British personnel outside the Akrotiri air base took place without sparking new protests. This probably was because tight security measures were taken by Greek Cypriot authorities, who yesterday appeared to be trying vigorously to cool tensions.

The evacuation of Turkish Cypriot refugees, meanwhile, continued unimpeded over the weekend; it should be completed within a week. The road from the refugee area to the airstrip at Akrotiri has remained open, and no attempt has been made by Greek Cypriots to interdict traffic.

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National Intelligence Bulletin

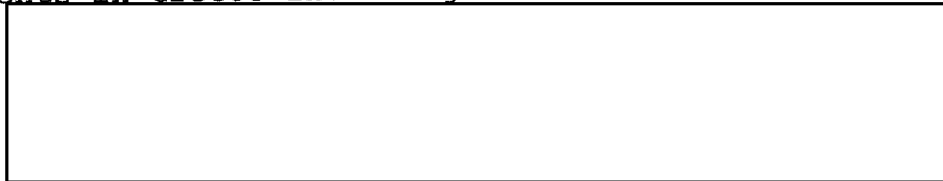
January 20, 1975

25X1



Anti-British demonstrations also occurred in Athens on Saturday. Greek and Greek Cypriot students smashed the windows of the British embassy and tried to storm it, but were stopped by Greek police. There were no reports of incidents in Greece involving US installations or personnel.

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Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP79T00975A027300010054-9

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2007/03/07 : CIA-RDP79T00975A027300010054-9

National Intelligence BulletinJanuary 20, 1975

VIETNAM

The Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) has scored a significant breakthrough in its efforts to obtain full observer status at the UN. At the request of UN Secretary General Waldheim, the PRG will be allowed to establish a liaison office at the UN Headquarters in Geneva for dealing with humanitarian matters, such as those handled by UNICEF and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

The South Vietnamese have protested strongly to the Swiss, asking them not to grant visas to the PRG delegation. Bern, however, maintains that it cannot exclude any delegation that has been officially invited to attend a UN-sponsored forum.

The Swiss further hold that their concurrence in the establishment of a PRG mission in Geneva, announced publicly for the first time on January 15, does not imply governmental recognition of the PRG. In fact, the Foreign Ministry has stated explicitly that it has no intention of establishing any form of diplomatic or special representation with the PRG, and that Viet Cong activities will be restricted to those associated with a liaison office to UN organizations.

The issue first surfaced last fall when the PRG's foreign minister asked Waldheim to agree to the opening of a PRG office for contacts with the UN organizations. UN officials did not respond directly to the PRG request. During October and November, however, UN officials in Geneva did permit PRG representatives to attend a series of meetings of nonaligned states. These meetings, although not held under UN auspices, took place in the UN's Geneva facilities.

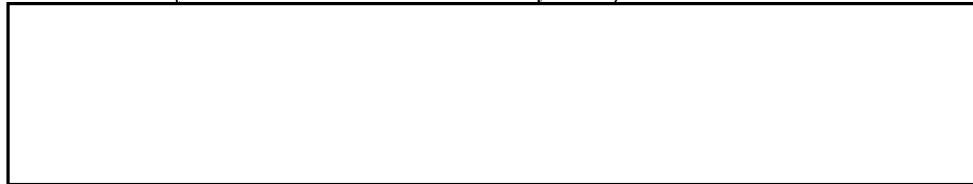
Saigon's special representatives to the UN immediately protested to Waldheim, arguing that this action, in effect, gave tacit recognition to another governmental entity in the South and furthered PRG claims of being a legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people.

National Intelligence Bulletin

January 20, 1975

At first, Waldheim took an equivocal position in the Geneva maneuverings. For a while, he refused to explicitly endorse the PRG request, despite the efforts of the Swiss government to gain his written approval. On the other hand, Waldheim refused to rule against the PRG, arguing that he was being "watched very carefully" on this issue by the Soviets and Chinese.

This success will undoubtedly bolster PRG chances for attending the February session of the Law of War conference in Geneva. Although the participants at the first session of the conference, in February 1974, defeated a draft resolution inviting PRG attendance, the PRG and its allies are now likely to revive the issue. PRG efforts to gain observer status at the coming Seventh Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, also headquartered in Geneva, may be successful as well.



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Next 4 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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Top Secret

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